

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for fixing a cured product to a transparent material as supported by the specification at page 3, lines 1-8, page 7, lines 7-15, and examples, for example table 2 on page 101. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-23 have been amended editorially. Claims 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 27 has been added as supported by the specification at page 6, line 30 – page 7, line 6.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Fujita et al. (European Patent Application Publication No. EP 1179567). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for fixing a cured product to a transparent material, and claim 1 recites steps of applying the curable composition including an oxygen-curable substance (II) to the transparent material and allowing the curable composition to form the cured product, which provides weather-resistant adhesion properties, and the cured product to adhere to the transparent material. By including the oxygen-curable substance (II) in the curable composition, high weather-resistant properties of the cured product can be obtained (see page 3, lines 1-17 and tables 2, 4, and 6 on pages 101, 103, and 105 of the specification). Such high weather-resistant adhesion properties of the cured product, which adheres to the transparent material, are significant particularly in the field of construction, civil engineering, transportation, automobile, etc. where transparent materials are used outdoors (see page 3, lines 18-22 of the specification).

When the oxygen-curable substance (II) is included in the curable composition of claim 1 and the curable composition is cured and exposed to xenon light, which resembles sunlight, for 1000 hours or longer, the cured product adheres strongly to a transparent material (see page 91, lines 1-26, tables 1 and 2 on pages 100 and 101 of the

specification. Note in particular example 1 vs. comparative example 1 and example 3 vs. comparative example 2, and tables 5 and 6 on pages 104 and 105, respectively, of the specification). In addition, after immersing in water at 50°C for 7 days, the cured product of claim 1 provides sufficient water-resistant adhesion thereof to the transparent material (see page 93, line 34 – page 94, line 10 and tables 3 and 4 on pages 102 and 103, respectively, of the specification). Thus, the cured product recited in claim 1 provides high weather-resistant adhesion properties. In contrast, the cured product obtained from the curable composition that does not include the oxygen-curable substance (II) completely peels off from the transparent material after exposing to xenon light for 1000 hours or after immersing in water at 50°C for 7 days, i.e., the cured product exhibits poor weather-resistant adhesion properties (see tables 1-6 on pages 100-105, respectively, of the specification).

Fujita discloses objectives of reducing a tackiness (residual tack) in a surface of the cured product and dust adhered to the surface of the cured product as the second aspect, and the reference further discloses the method that provides the cured product having low tackiness of and less dust on the surface by including the oxygen-curable substance in the curable composition (see paras. [0011] on page 3, [0141]-[0142] on page 23, and table 2 on page 56). Fujita, however, fails to disclose that the oxygen-curable can improve weather-resistant adhesion of the cured product to the transparent material and thus fails to disclose a method for providing improved weather-resistant adhesion properties of the cured product by including the oxygen-curable substance into the curable composition as claim 1 recites. As discussed above, by including the oxygen-curable substance in the curable composition, the high weather-resistant adhesion properties of the cured product, which adheres to the transparent material, can be obtained (see tables 1-6 on pages 100-105 of the specification). Such improvement of the weather-resistant adhesion properties of the cured product obtained by including the oxygen-curable substance in the curable composition is not recognized by Fujita and thus is not expected from the disclosure of the reference. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-23, which ultimately depend from claim 1, are distinguished from Fujita, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

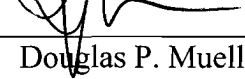
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

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